Dear Sol, 12/31/90

That Frieda has about talked you in to recording some of your recollections of significant events of the past is very welcome news!

Part of my difficulty in understand what you were saying was not from my hearing. The volume was low. While any number of things could have caused this I mention it so you can be alert to a possible problem out there in the country.

You said you have a tape recorder you can use. It will record what you say. But it may not be the most convenient of the available means. What I am saying is that you might consider getting a dictating machine.

I never had one until I was faced with an incredibke situation: a federal judge allowing herself to be conned by a Department of Justice lawyer into directing me to act as its consultant in my suit against it! It was in camera. I resisted until my lawyer indicated he felt we had to do it. I soon found that for much dictating a tape recorder is inadquate and awkward. *

So I went to the office-supplies comapny with which I dealt and for surprisingly little I got both a dictating machine and one that can be used only for transcribing. I soon found that there are real advantages to using a machine designed for effeciency and convenience in dictating. (The machine can also be used for transcribing but not quite as well as the transcribing unit.)

For one thing, it can be advanced, reversed and turned on and off from the hand-held microphone. If you want to go back and listen to something you said, and this is not uncommon, you need only note where you are in the counter and you can rapidly return to that point to resume.

My machine takes the standard cassettes but as I told you these devices have been mineraturized rather well if you would want to sit in a chair, not near a table, and dictate from there. Or anywhere else. I once dictated a summary of a possible movie plot while walking through downtown D.C. traffic at morning rush hour from the Greyhound bus station to the federal court building and it was quite comprehensible.

If there is any advantage in the mineraturized machine, transcribing machines, which may not interest you, are also available and inexpensive. There is the additional possibility, which I have used, of dubbing from the minerature cassette onto a standard-size one. Then it can be transcribed by anyone with a standard-size cassette machine or, although it is slower and more tedious, a tape player. I should have told you that the transcribing machines have foot controls so they can be advanced or reversed by foot or by hand.

One advantage of the minerature machines is that you can carry it in a pocket and use it for memos to yourself, like making notes, to avoid forgetting.

I hope that you find it convenient to compartmentalize more than - have. For example, on one cassette recount what I've not seen reported anywhere, how and why the Catholic Church was given to understand that Father Coughlin would be indicted if he did not suspend his radio atrocities.

This might also be true of some of what you have first-person knowledge of relating to Nazis and the German-American Bund. I think that perhaps much of what you may recall lends itself to separation from other things, cases, lawsuits, etc.

*1/3/91 This is set forth in some detail in the record in my CA 75-1996, for King-assassination records. Ultimately I turned in about 250 typed pages that the appeals office said was valuable and for which DJ, having promised the judge that I'd be paid "generously," refused to pay at all. DJ counsel actually argued that having made this commitment, it lacked authority to do that. Even though it had been approved by the second-in-command of the Civil Division! And they got away with it, too!!!Wretched people!

When I had to stop I got off on another series of tangeants of which I now, with a number of interruptions, have 15 pp. typed. Eventually I'll correct and send them.

Best, Harold